AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein the advice is given if another ~~device~~ printer having said capabilities needed for processing said job is available.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein, if more than one other ~~device~~ printer can process the job, the advice indicates the one other ~~device~~ printer on the basis of the walking distance from the first ~~device~~ printer.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein, if more than one other ~~device~~ printer can process the job, the advice indicates the one other ~~device~~ printer on the basis of degree of occupation.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein said advising has the form of a message on the display of said ~~first device~~ printer.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method of processing digital print files in a network system including a plurality of printers, each of said plurality of printers having a local operating unit provided with operating means and a display and a memory for storing print files, each print

file comprising metadata specifying job information including process settings, and print image data, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a print file from a remote location and storing the print file, while not automatically printing the print file;

~~actively sharing~~ distributing at least the metadata of each received print file ~~among said plurality of~~ to all of said plurality of printers ~~connected to the system~~; and

each of said plurality of printers making each print file available for selection and printing, through respective local operating units of said plurality of printers, but not printing any print files without an explicit command from the printer; and

storing, in each printer, information on capabilities and status of connected printers,

wherein each of said plurality of printers performs the steps of:

automatically analysing each print file metadata as to printer capabilities necessary for printing the print file;

automatically checking if that printer can print the print file in accordance with the settings included in the metadata; and

upon receiving from the local operating unit a selection and an associated print start command for a print file:

if the printer cannot print the print file in accordance with the settings, automatically advising, through a display of the local operating unit, of at least one other printer that can print said print file in accordance with the settings, but not issuing a print command to said other printers; and

if the printer can print the print file in accordance with the settings, ~~starts~~

starting printing the file.

8-9   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended)   [[A]] <u>The</u> method <u>according to claim 7, wherein the</u>

<u>network system further includes</u> ~~of processing digital scan jobs in a network system including~~ a

plurality of scanners, <u>each of</u> said scanners having [[an]] <u>a local</u> operating unit provided with

operating means and a display, <u>and each of the scanners being capable of generating a print file</u>

<u>to be printed by the plurality of printers,</u> the method <u>further</u> comprising the steps of:

storing, in each scanner, information on capabilities and status of connected scanners; and

locally initiating a scan job through the local operating unit of a first scanner, said scan

job including scan job settings,

wherein said first scanner performs the steps of:

automatically analysing said scan job as to scanner capabilities necessary for

processing the scan job in accordance with the scan job settings of the job;

automatically checking if said first scanner can process the scan job in accordance

with said scan job settings, and

if the first scanner cannot process the scan job in accordance with the scan job

settings, automatically advising, through a display of the local operating unit, of at least

one other scanner that can process the scan job in accordance with the scan job settings of

the job; and

if the first scanner can process the scan job in accordance with the scan job settings, starts processing the job.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A printer for printing digital print files, for use in a network ~~printing~~ system including a plurality of printers, <u>each of</u> said printer<u>s</u> comprising:

[[-]] a network connection unit for communicating with the system and for receiving print files having preprogrammed settings<u>, each print file comprising metadata specifying job information and print image data</u>;

[[-]] a print unit;

[[-]] an operating unit provided with operating means and a display; ~~and~~

[[-]] a control unit including<u>:</u>

[[--]] a maintaining mechanism for maintaining information on capabilities and status of connected printers;

[[--]] an analysing mechanism for analysing a received print file as to printer capabilities necessary for printing the print file in accordance with the preprogrammed settings of the print file;

[[--]] a checking mechanism for checking if the printer can print the print file in accordance with said preprogrammed settings; and

[[--]] an advising mechanism for advising, in the case that the printer cannot print the print file, of at least one other printer that has the capabilities needed for printing said print file in accordance with said preprogrammed settings<u>, but not issuing a print command to said other printers</u>;

an extracting module for extracting at least part of the metadata of a received print file

and storing the same in a local memory dedicated to the control unit; and

a storing module for storing the print image data of said received print file in a logical

storage space allocated to said user,

wherein said control unit further includes:

a print file selection mechanism for presenting print files, based on the metadata extracted

by the extracting module, that can be selected via the operating means; and

a print file releasing mechanism for releasing a print file for printing by the print unit

only after selection of that print file and an associated print command entered via the operating

means;

wherein the control unit operates said advising mechanism upon selection of a print file,

if the printer cannot print the print file in accordance with its preprogrammed settings.

12.   (Original) The printer according to claim 11, wherein said control unit decides if

a printer can print a specific print file on the basis of whether that printer has the capabilities

necessary for printing the print file.

13.   (Original) The printer according to claim 11, wherein said control unit gives the

advice if another printer having said capabilities needed for printing said print file is available.

14.   (Original)   The printer according to claim 11, wherein the information on capabilities and status of connected printers, maintained in each printer, includes the physical locations of said printers, and

wherein, if more than one other printer can print the print file, the control unit advises one other printer on the basis of the walking distance from the first printer.

15.   (Original) The printer according to claim 11, wherein, if more than one other printer can print the print file, the control unit advises one other printer on the basis of degree of occupation.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 14, further including:

[[-]] a metadata exchange module for exchanging metadata of print files directly or indirectly with another printer,

wherein said control unit is operable to receive metadata from said metadata exchange module.

18.   (Currently Amended)   [[A]] The printer according to claim 11, wherein the network system further includes a plurality of scanners for processing digital scan jobs, for use in a network system including a plurality of scanners, each of said plurality of scanners comprising:

[[-]] a network connection unit, for communicating with the network system;

[[-]] a scan unit;

[[-]] an operating unit provided with operating means and a display for entering a scan job command with scan job settings;

[[-]] a control unit including:

[[--]] a maintaining mechanism for maintaining information on capabilities and status of connected scanners;

[[--]] an analysing mechanism for analysing an entered scan job command as to scanner capabilities necessary for processing the scan job in accordance with the scan job settings of the scan job;

[[--]] a checking mechanism for checking if the scanner can process the scan job in accordance with said scan job settings; and

[[--]] an advising mechanism for advising, in the case that the scanner cannot process the scan job, of at least one other scanner that has the capabilities needed for processing said scan job in accordance with said scan job settings.

19.   (Original) The scanner according to claim 18, wherein said control unit decides if a scanner can process a specific scan job on the basis of whether that scanner has the capabilities necessary for processing the scan job.

20.   (Previously Presented) The scanner according to claim 18, wherein said control unit gives the advice if another scanner having said capabilities needed for processing said scan job is available.